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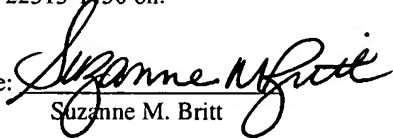
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Harcombe, Anthony Thomas
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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment prior to verification of the filing fee and issuance of the first Office action on the merits in the above application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.